Netting Our Problems for a Cleaner Future

Project Time Period
(FY 2019 Q. 4)

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Media: Solid Waste

Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove

King Cove, Alaska

Project Description

King Cove, Alaska is located on the pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula. It is 18 miles southeast of Cold Bay and 625 miles southwest of Anchorage. Since 1911, when the Pacific American Fisheries (PAF) built a salmon cannery. Many early settlers were employed in the cannery as well as nearby villages, Belkofski, Sanak, and False Pass, came to work in the cannery or purchase supplies. Later on, in 1965 the cannery was sold to Peter Pan Seafoods. Today, Peter Pan Seafoods continues to operate the King Cove facility and the community is primarily dependent on the fishing industry.
Agdaagux Tribe (ATC) has been operating a solid waste recycling project for years and have coordinated many events around recycling, including education outreach, bag ban, backhaul, and much more.
Being a fishing community the waste from the practice has been affecting the environment

Project Details

Planning for the net backhaul project all started back in June, 2019 with Santina Gay, Karen Pletnikoff, Doug Huntmen, and Milinna Faw. From there the plan was quickly developed due to only three remaining months in the fiscal year. Hiring of a contractor from Delta Backhaul, Doug Huntmen the owner, was done and then a list of important environmental projects was listed: nets and lines, E-Waste, and freon removal. Supplies, travel, logging, shipping and logistics and per diem was then discussed with contractor for the best fix on expenses. From September 19th – 24th the project was in commence. Each day was sorting of nets and lines in connexes and on pallets until the pile was no longer there. The last two days included E-Waste and freon removal for two city shop personnel to improve the landfill operations.

Community Response

Response to a problem from the community was the starting ember to the project. The former Coordinator of ATC IGAP became aware of marine debris and nets pollution so in an effort to achieve the net recycling by having fishermen and crabbers make an effort to not place their old nets and lines in the landfill but station them at the Harbor in a large pile.
Backhauling nets out of the community not only was a new learning process for ATC IGAP personnel but to community as well. The eye-opening project had other fishermen offering nets to be taken during this backhaul and even companies. Community members during the backhaul would check on progress, help, and meet with Doug and Fred.

Next Steps

ATC views this project as a stepping stone towards developing a different type of recycling program while continuing the original. ATC will be using this success to continue in the future by educating and working with the community even more to backhaul the remaining nets out of the community. Sharing information on this project with other communities surrounding the area will sure enough raise awareness to start the project themselves.

Partners & Support

Delta Backhaul
Technical assistance with whole backhaul
https://dbcalaska.net/
PPSF
Technical assistance with barge shipment
https://www.ppsf.com/
The City of King Cove
Heavy Machinery Labor
https://www.cityofkingcove.com/
APIA
Technical assistance with budget
https://www.apiai.org/
EPA
Technical assistance with work plan
https://www.epa.gov/
Samson Tug & Barge
Shipping Recyclables (Backhaul)
https://samsontug.com/
CoastalTransportation
Shipping Recyclables (Backhaul)
http://www.coastaltransportation.com/
Net Your Problems
Recycling Nets and Lines (Seattle)
https://www.netyourproblem.com/
Central Recycling
Recycling E-Waste (Seattle)
http://www.centralrecyclingservices.com/